

--Overview--

Enterprise GIS Business Plan

The Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB) has designated the provision of geographic information systems (GIS) services as an “enterprise system.” To implement the intent of the ITIB, the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth has awarded a contract, via the VITA Advanced IT Resource Services Contract procedures, to Timmons Group for the development of a business plan for the provision and operation of enterprise GIS services.

Business Plan Goal and Objectives

The goal of the VITA GIS Business Plan is to demonstrate how existing decentralized GIS resources and activities can be marshaled into a comprehensive enterprise suite of GIS services, providing improved business support at the same or lesser collective total cost of ownership. To accomplish that goal, the plan will meet the following objectives:

- a) Provide a common definition (i.e., model, template) of what constitutes a GIS resource, in terms of hardware, software, common geospatial data layers, personnel, and related support services;
- b) Provide a comprehensive inventory of GIS resources in the 20 Virginia State agencies with current GIS operations.
- c) Based on GIS resource inventory, produce a compilation of geospatial applications and their related data layers.
- d) Examine the best practices of states recognized as leaders in GIS services to determine their applicability in Virginia.
- e) Identify and evaluate any technical issues (i.e., security, network capacity) that could impact the delivery performance and interoperability of geospatial services. Identify measures of delivery performance.
- f) Identify Enterprise GIS options for VITA/VGIN’s GIS consolidation, including services, the appropriate technical architecture/configuration, related hardware/software requirements, staffing and organizational structure. Estimate the cost/benefit for each option associated with the enterprise consolidation.
- g) Develop options for a “shared services” model for determining and charging back to customer agencies the costs of the recommended enterprise GIS services.
- h) Identify any factors potentially impacting transition from the existing GIS landscape to the optional enterprise operations outlined above.

The project is scheduled to be completed by November 1.

GIS Town Halls

To facilitate agency participation and group discussion/feedback, the project plan includes for GIS Town Halls. Commonwealth CIO Lem Stewart hosted the kick-off session on September 9 at the VITA Operations Center. During this session the CIO explained why GIS was an excellent candidate for cost savings and improved services via a “shared services” approach, as well as opportunities for state agencies to participate in the business planning process. Over 30 representatives from 14 state agencies with current or proposed GIS operations, including agency heads, deputies, and GIS managers, participated in the session.

The second Town Hall on September 29 covered technology/security issues, as well as discussion of the GIS resource inventory forms and processes. Two additional sessions—covering the results of the inventory and review of the draft business plan—remain to be scheduled.